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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1A

COUNTRY Uruguay

DATE DISTR. 5 October 1951

SUBJECT Activities of the Union General de Trabajadores of  
Uruguay 25X1A

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(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1X  
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1. During the reporting period, the Communists have been exceedingly active in the labor field. Working through their controlled organization, the Union General de Trabajadores (UGT), they have made a series of remarkable comebacks, particularly in the wool industry. Source credits the ineptness of the employers in handling their labor relations, together with the rising cost of living in Montevideo, as two contributing factors which the Communists have skillfully exploited to their advantage.
2. As recently reported, the Communists in the wool industry had little organization, and their leaders were unable to command the attention and respect of the workers. In view of the decadent condition of the UGT, the wool employers believed it would be to their advantage to establish company-controlled "yellow" unions, in spite of the protests of many anti-Communist laborers who foresaw defeat for such a project because of the great distrust which the majority of the workers have for the wool employers. Under these conditions the anti-Communist vote was split at a recent election between the company union supporters and the small non-Communist autonomous faction. The resulting vote gave the UGT group an easy nine-to-one margin. This victory for the Communists gives them a starting point from which to launch a general offensive in other industries where they have recently suffered defeats. Communist leaders of the wool industry are preparing their members for a strike in November or December which would coincide with the period of export wool shipment.\*
3. The UGT continues to approach the syndicates with an unchanged propaganda program. The Pro-Peace issue remains the dominant factor in the program, and, for local appeal, the demand for increases in salaries to match the rising cost of living is also stressed. UGT leaders expect now to turn their attention to the transportation, textile, and metalurgical industries in an effort to achieve domination in those labor syndicates again.

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Comment. Eighty percent of this Uruguayan wool shipment is for the United States.

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